

From: [Mayor](#)
To: s. 40(2)
Subject: Lunch - Mayor Rees and Sir Ed Lister
Date: 26 July 2018 17:21:19
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi s. 40(2)

I hope you're well.

The Mayor would be has asked for a lunch to be arranged with Sir Ed. I think they have had discussions about this directly.

The Mayor would be happy with this being in London, and I'm happy to find a day when he's there and arrange accordingly. But I think the agreement is it would be better in Bristol.

Could you let me know of any upcoming dates when Sir Ed will be in Bristol, and I will do my best to make a lunch work on one of those days? I think the Mayor was hoping for quite a long session, say three hours, to incorporate both a lunch with key city stakeholders and a bit of a tour of the city.

If there's nothing on the books, I'll offer some dates myself and we can work from there.

Best wishes



s. 40(2)
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From: Marvin Rees [REDACTED] s. 40(2)
Subject: To Sir Ed Lister on the Bristol arena
Date: 17 July 2018 at 23:15:19 BST
To: [REDACTED] s. 40(2)
Cc: [REDACTED] s. 40(2)
[REDACTED]

Dear Ed

I've put the below together.

I understand you have to feel comfortable with what you put out so this is merely a suggestion. I wouldn't be sensitive if you changed it.

s. 40(2) and s. 40(2) will facilitate connections with the local press once you are happy with the script.

I am really appreciative of your support.

Best

Marvin

Ed Lister, Chair, Homes England

“National Body Homes England steps into Arena debate”

As a core city, and a place which has seen considerable growth in recent years, we have been watching the changes happening in Bristol with growing interest.

Bristol used to be viewed as a city where it was difficult to get things done. The city succeeded, despite itself and that meant the potential of Bristol was never fully realised.

But we're seeing Bristol differently today. We see evidence of a commitment to the pace and scale of delivery that is winning the interest of government agencies and the private sector alike.

We have come to take a particular interest in the city debate over the arena and the use of Temple Island. Our interest is derived from the fact that we are the national body charged with driving and supporting local authorities to deliver homes, that we are a fellow owner of development land in Temple Quarter and colleagues on the board the mayor has convened to drive the long overdue redevelopment of Temple Meads Station.

It is vital that Bristol gives the mayor and his cabinet the space and support they need to make the right decision. It's a decision that must be based on the best available evidence of what will support the strength of the Bristol economy over the long term rather than what will win political points in the short term. A failure to make an evidence based decision would not only result in a sub optimal future for the city, but undermine the confidence of government and other outside investors in the ability of the city leadership to shake off the

failures of the past and provide the mature leadership a global city like Bristol needs and deserves.

It is in this context that I am coming forward to endorse the approach Mayor Rees and his cabinet have taken.

It was right to reset the commitment to deliver the arena to the delivery of an arena the city can afford. They were right to resist the pressure to sign the first deal that was offered and instead seek to drive the price down.

The decision to launch a study to get evidence together to assess actual value for money of building an arena on Temple Island, particularly as the forthcoming redevelopment of Temple Meads station and the new £300m University Campus change the context within which a Temple Island arena would be built. And it was right to extend that study to assess the comparative value of an alternative development on Temple Island and the YTL offer to build an arena in the Brabazon Hanger as these proposals were brought forward.

From our reading the city has to grapple with the reality that while building an arena on Temple Island would deliver £350m and 650 jobs over the next 25yrs, the alternative development mixed use development would generate £900m GVA and over 2000 jobs. That's in excess of an additional £500m GVA and three times as many jobs. We recognise that many people have got used to the idea of the arena being built on Temple Island to the point that they began calling it Arena Island. But these are big economic differences that cannot be taken lightly.

Homes England are looking for partners ready to make the right decision in the long term interests of their cities and country. Focus and commitment, working with the evidence, making the right decision on the basis of that evidence, unlocking land and a collaborative approaches are the qualities we are looking for when we are making a judgement on how confident we are to invest in a place and its leadership. We have seen these qualities growing in Bristol. We have every confidence they will continue to grow and our relationship will grow from strength to strength as we work together to deliver the homes and infrastructure Bristol needs.

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